

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A program length extending or shortening device for extending or shortening the program length of a material video program to produce a target video program, said device comprising;

storage means for storing an image of said material video program reproduced and supplied from a predetermined recording medium by a reproducing device; and

extending or shortening control means for extending or shortening the program length of said material video program to produce said target video program by skipping or reading duplicately an image of said material video program from said storage means in accordance with a program length extending or shortening ratio that is based on the program lengths of said material video program and said target video program.

2. The program length extending or shortening device according to claim 1 wherein said extending or shortening control means extends or shortens the program length of said entire material video program to produce said target video program by dividing said material video program into units of editing composed of a plurality of images, and extending or shortening the program length for each of said units of editing.

3. The program length extending or shortening device according to claim 2 wherein said extending or shortening control means

chooses the number of images constituting each of said units of editing such that the amount of extending or shortening each of said units of editing is equal to or less than the capacity of said storage means.

4. The program length extending or shortening device according to claim 2, further comprising:

timing control means for controlling the speed of said reproducing device to start reproducing said material video program in said unit of editing at a predetermined reproduction start timing on the basis of the count value of a predetermined reproducing reference timer, and controlling the speed of predetermined recording means to start recording said target video program in said unit of editing at a predetermined recording start timing on the basis of the count value of a predetermined recording reference timer.

5. The program length extending or shortening device according to claim 1 wherein said extending or shortening control means calculates a remaining set value on the basis of two input set values among three set values of the start time, the end time and the program length of said material video program, calculates a remaining set value on the basis of two input set values among three set values of the start time, the end time and the program length of said target video program, and calculates said program

length extending or shortening ratio on the basis of the program lengths of said material video program and said target video program that are calculated.

6. The program length extending or shortening device according to claim 1, further comprising:

reference time code generating means for generating a reference time code to extend or shorten said material video program, and synthesis means for synthesizing the additional information with said target video program, the additional information being supplied from predetermined additional information supplying means at a timing corresponding to said reference time code.

7. A program length extending or shortening method for producing a target video program by extending or shortening the program length of a material video program, said method comprising the steps of;

storing an image of said material video program reproduced and supplied from a predetermined recording medium by a reproducing device in storage means; and

extending or shortening the program length of said material video program to produce said target video program by skipping or reading duplicately an image of said material video program from said storage means in accordance with a program length extending

or shortening ratio that is based on the program lengths of said material video program and said target video program.

8. The program length extending or shortening method according to claim 7 wherein said step of extending or shortening further comprises extending or shortening the program length of said entire material video program to produce said target video program by dividing said material video program into units of editing composed of a plurality of images, and extending or shortening the program length for each of said units of editing.

9. The program length extending or shortening method according to claim 8 wherein said step of extending or shortening further comprises choosing the number of images constituting each of said units of editing such that the amount of extending or shortening each of said units of editing is equal to or less than the capacity of said storage means.

10. The program length extending or shortening method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

controlling the speed of said reproducing device to start reproducing said material video program in said unit of editing at a predetermined reproduction start timing on the basis of the count value of a predetermined reproducing reference timer, and controlling the speed of predetermined recording means to start

recording said target video program in said unit of editing at a predetermined recording start timing on the basis of the count value of a predetermined recording reference timer.

11. The program length extending or shortening method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

calculating a remaining set value on the basis of two input set values among three set values of the start time, the end time and the program length of said material video program, calculating a remaining set value on the basis of two input set values among three set values of the start time, the end time and the program length of said target video program, and calculating said program length extending or shortening ratio on the basis of the program lengths of said material video program and said target video program that are calculated.

12. A program length adjusting system for producing a target video program by extending or shortening the program length of a material video program, said system comprising;

a reproducing device for reproducing said material video program recorded on a predetermined recording medium;

a program length extending or shortening device for extending or shortening the program length of said material video program to produce said target video program by storing said material video program supplied by said reproducing device in storage means, and

skipping or reading duplicately an image of said material video program from said storage means in accordance with a program length extending or shortening ratio that is based on the program lengths of said material video program and said target video program; and

a recording device for recording said target video program output from said program length extending or shortening device.